



The Searchlight

To Members of the

The Academy for Spiritual and Consciousness Studies, Inc.

Volume 23, No. 1



February 2015

LeShan Shares Psi Insights

by David Stang

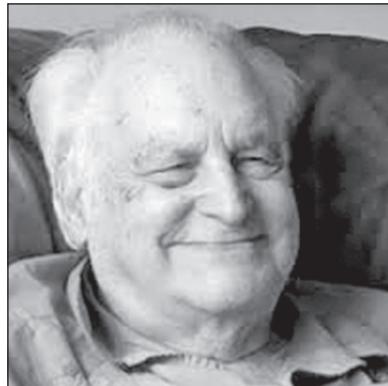
"We desperately need a new concept of what a human being is if we are to learn how to stop killing each other and poisoning our only planet. The old materialistic worldview has not enabled us to do this. Psychic research, however does offer the opportunity for a new picture of the world."

So writes Dr. Lawrence LeShan in his 2009 book, *A New Science of The Paranormal*. A resident of New York City, LeShan published his first professional paper in 1942. Since then he has authored over 150 papers and 20 books, which have been translated into 19 languages. He holds a Ph.D. in human development from the University of Chicago, has taught at various universities and has lectured and given seminars widely in the US, Europe and elsewhere. He has worked as a research psychologist for 60 years including six years as a psychologist in the US Army. He also serves on the Academy's Advisory Board.

Among his other books are: *The Medium, The Mystic, and The Physicist* (1974), *Einstein's Space & Von Gogh's Sky* (1983), *How to Meditate: A Guide to Self-Discovery* (1999), and *Landscapes of the Mind: The Faces of Reality* (2012) Now busy at work on still another book he took time out at his Manhattan apartment to talk about his favorite topic.

As you see it, Dr. LeShan, what is the essence of reality as humans perceive it?

"We are a symbol-using class of beings. We employ spoken and written words, numbers, images, songs, memories, dreams – from petroglyphs to Jungian archetypes. The primary biological imperative of *Homo sapiens* is to believe and act as if the information we get through our senses is accurate. As any species matures it develops a sensory array that helps it acquire a sense of what is real. The world picture of an electric eel is much different than ours. Space and time in particular are quite different. Consider also the example of a wood tick which was observed by an entomologist for 17 years hanging upside down from the branch of a tree until one day suddenly a smelly, sweaty dog walked under the



Dr. Lawrence LeShan

branch at which time the tick released its hold on the branch and dropped down to bury itself in the dog's hairy hide. What does time mean to a wood tick?

"Each species follows its imperative. Human beings, however, have a special problem doing this. Because when we ask ourselves how does the world work and what is reality we get two completely different pictures. We look *outside* and see a world best

described as *Newtonian*. Things are arithmetic. They are discrete things affecting each other by bumping into each other. That is how the world works as Newton saw it and as we still see it. But when we look *inside* we see a completely different world picture. There is no such thing as space. Time varies completely. When looking inside some things can be arithmetic and other things can't. Some things have a special arithmetic. How long is the yellow brick road? Or how short? How many days does it take you to travel the

length of the yellow brick road? You could answer 'one', 'a few,' or 'many.' "So you see there are different arithmetics for quantifying external material (or energetic) reality and for quantifying internal reality. I get two separate answers when I ask the question 'What is reality as humans perceive it?' We humans are able to figure out which question comes first. Clearly, our first priority is biological survival and that requires figuring out how things are *out there*. Accordingly, we are wise enough to teach our children not to learn to meditate very early in their lives. Not to speculate or get really involved in high-level abstractions. We teach them instead not to play in traffic. In short, children are taught to trust their senses in order to survive. What this biological imperative means is that when confronted with the two questions – external reality and internal reality – our priority choice is to use our senses to learn what is true about external reality. My emphasizing this fact is not intended to devalue the utility of our more subjective inner searching."

From Descartes' "cogito ergo sum" came Rationalism and Empiricism. What do you consider to be the major limitations of these two schools of

See INTERVIEW page 12

President's Message: Moving Positively Into the New Year

We will be into the New Year by the time you read this column. As we all know, change is the only constant in our lives. I have just written personal thank-you notes to both Patricia Thoms and William Stoney on their retirement from our board of directors. Pat's retirement is due to health reasons and Bill states that at 90 years of age, he needs a rest! We all thank them for their service to us and wish the best for them in the upcoming years. Since we have 15 members on the board, Pat and Bill's positions will not be replaced.

Lee Lawrence states that he has verbal contracts for many of the speakers for our June 11-14, 2015 conference, entitled *Aspects of Consciousness* in Durham/Chapel Hill, NC. Two other board members, Roberta Grimes and Craig Hogan, have been working like energizer bunnies and have their conference for September 24-27, 2015 in Phoenix, AZ, entitled *Life in the Afterlife*, already posted on our web site.

I am still working hard in New Jersey to lift my house after Hurricane Sandy and have learned that a hurricane is not necessarily about just the physical devastation. I have spent two years "waiting" for people to make decisions about my life, seemingly unable to move things quicker. If you know anyone who has been a victim of a natural disaster, please develop as much empathy as possible for his/her situation. It is a long burdensome process with many lessons in Thanksgiving, the holiday just passed as I write this, giving me the ability to see the brightness on the 2015 horizon.

I recently read on the Internet about the November 26th birthday of the playwright Eugene Ionesco, who was born in Romania in 1909 but raised in Paris until he was 13. He hated the city and its social mores, feeling especially confused and plagued by the rise of Nazism he saw happening there. Once, when watching a military parade, he stood horrified as a lieutenant rushed up to a peasant standing nearby, slapping and shouting at him for not removing his hat upon seeing the flag. As an adolescent watching the lieutenant's behavior, he wondered if he was to be different from everyone else and could he be "right" and the whole country wrong.

I'm sure everyone reading this column has lived through situations in which what they were viewing they considered to be "wrong." Ionesco could not have stood up for the peasant in a culture where the Nazi's were gaining power. However, most of us are very lucky to live in the United States where we have freedom of speech. I am amazed, however, as I watch many people who do not use this freedom. Perhaps they don't understand that

the quality of their life is enhanced by the quality of their communication.

Healing wounds from the past is one of the biggest and worthwhile challenges of life.

Doing so in your life is your responsibility. Many times people allow such behavior as Ionesco saw on the street to happen to themselves and to others because they have not taken the time to learn how to be assertive. However, in our everyday lives we may resist learning how to speak up because we just consider it easier not to change. Or, we decide to let someone else speak for us.

Perhaps this person you allow to speak for you becomes dramatic and overbearing using his or her authority to place him-/herself in the position of being "right." Others who are just listening don't state their feelings or positions. Then the person who is "wrong" will end up trying over and over to prove his/her innocence.

People can learn to have a new problem-solving identity to stop the drama they create in their lives, which is called a dialogue. There needs to be willingness, number one, among everyone to be honest and calmly state what the problem is. Then, number two, different views can be shared. Lastly, number three, there also needs to be a willingness to listen to all parties involved. It has been said that listening, rather than yelling, is 70 percent of communicating. When done correctly, a dialogue can create a sacred space.

DIA, the beginning letters in the word dialogue, means "through" or "with each other" and gives the word, dialogue, a sense of meaning. A dialogue allows people to flow through the conversation, no matter how difficult this feels in the beginning, towards some new understanding. Therefore, your family or whatever group you belong to can become a creative community where one person's strengths feeds another and everyone grows giving perhaps some people a new state of mind and a disposition for benevolence and justice. This uplifting mental outlook and behavior can raise your consciousness, which in turn awakens your soul and spirit.

— Karen E. Herrick, Ph.D.
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Karen E. Herrick

Meet the Academy's Directors (2nd in a series)

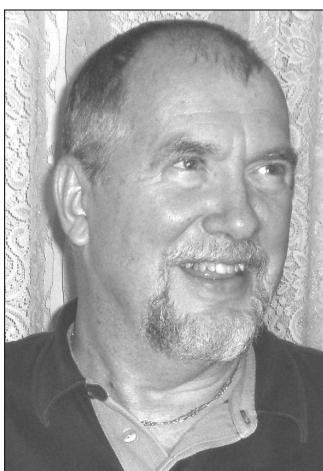
Miles Edward Allen: "I Do Not Believe; I Know!"

Except for a few synchronicities, Miles Edward Allen has never had a *real* psychic or paranormal experience. "I have not seen a ghost, had an NDE, or attended a séance," says Miles, a 70-year-old resident of York, Pennsylvania. "I am glad of this lack of personal encounters as it allows me to say that my conclusions are purely rational and research-based."

In addition to serving on the Academy's Board, Miles is the Academy's librarian, having devoted much time and effort to the Garland Memorial Library at the Academy's website. He has authored six books – *Legend: The Game* (2003), *The Survival Files: The Most Convincing Evidence Yet Compiled for the Survival of Your Soul* (2007); *Games People Actually Play* (2011), *The Afterlife Confirmed: Even More Convincing Evidence From the Survival Files* (2012); *Defending Bridey's Honor: The Reality of Reincarnation* (2013); and just recently released, *Astral Intimacy: Fifty Spirits Speak About Life, Love, and Sex After Death* (2014).

Born in Washington, D. C., Miles received his B.S. from the School of Journalism at the University of Maryland, then worked as a writer, designer, editor, and manager for various private and federal offices over three decades, ending his career as the director of publications for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Since his retirement, he has been keeping "busier than ever" with his writing, websites, and a greeting-and-note card company called FunOccasions.com.

An avid student of psychic and spiritual phenomena since reading Harold Sherman's *How To Make ESP Work For You*, while in college, Miles claims to have been a secular-materialist at the time and says that he bought the book with every intention of making fun of it. However, he became convinced that the subject was worth closer examination. After reading *Seth Speaks*, Miles became an avid follower of Jane Roberts through the 1970s and '80s, purchasing each hardcover edition as soon as it was released. His personal library now includes 21 "Seth" books among more than 500 other books on spirit-contact, reincarnation, and similar subjects. The "Survival Top 40" list, which can be found at the Academy's web site, is the result of his development and implementation of the Evidence Scoring System, an objective way of ranking the evidence for an afterlife. He enjoys solving cryptic crosswords, assembling jigsaw puzzles, designing games, and dabbling in chess.



Miles Edward Allen

"It seems to me that the vast majority of people on Earth have no conception or understanding of what really happens to them when they die," Miles explains his interest in contributing to the survival evidence. "I suspect that having such an understanding would cause people to become more compassionate, tolerant, forgiving, and joyful. Clearly, the more that such characteristics are demonstrated, the more desirable life in this world will be for myself, my progeny, my friends, and most everyone else. Therefore, the most important, urgent, and potentially fulfilling work I can perform is to provide everyone with opportunities to know that the human personality does survive the demise of the physical body. On the map of *Psi* endeavors, there are many other interesting avenues to explore, but none other so directly leads to a better world."

Friends have told him that his latest book, *Astral Intimacy*, is the best he has done. "Being as the book is mostly quotes of other author's writings and very little of my own, I'm not too sure how to take the compliments," he shrugs. "In the book

I compare, contrast, and sometimes critique over a thousand messages on a wide variety of topics concerning the next realms. I decided to do this for 50 different spirit sources basically because that sounded like a nice round and impressive number. The project has taken several years and, just like Cool-Hand Luke and his 50 eggs, before I was finished I began to doubt the wisdom of choosing such a large quantity. The title, of course, is intended to pique the interest of a wide audience; nevertheless, it isn't a gimmick — there actually is testimony from several sources concerning astral intimacy, spirit lovers, and coitus in the astral realms." (The book will be reviewed in the next issue of *The Searchlight*.)

When asked if he *really* believes in what he so frequently writes and talks about, Miles says he can honestly reply that he does. "Founded on a thorough and open-minded examination of the evidence, without bias or prejudice, I have logically concluded that psychic phenomena are real and Survival is a fact beyond any reasonable doubt. Thus, I do not 'believe.' I *know!*'

Miles and his wife, Donna, currently divide their time between their home in Pennsylvania and a cabin in West Virginia. They have one daughter and two grandsons.

— MET

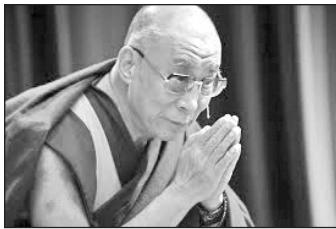


Searchlight Media Watch



Tom and Lisa Butler, NST

Buddhist Psychic Traditions: The Dalai Lama is very interested in science and spirituality coming together and supports "Mind and Life" meetings (mindandlife.org) which link Tibetan Buddhist teachings with aspects of science. In his book *Freedom in Exile*,



he specifically requests that science begins to investigate the Tibetan psychic traditions, such as the oracles and the Tibetan divination techniques known as Mo Divination.

Many Tibetan monasteries have a practicing oracle and someone who does divination. Energy, psychic and spiritual healing techniques are commonly practiced. Buddhist teachings say that in order to attain enlightenment you have to first understand/experience the "clairvoyances."

From: "The Effect of Meditation Attainment on Psychic Awareness: Research with Yogis and Tibetan Buddhists" by S.M. Roney-Dougal, *The Paranormal Review*, issue 61

Psi-Mediated Instrumental Response (PMIR): PMIR is a model developed by parapsychologist Rex G. Stanford, to describe how a person might unconsciously obtain extrasensory information from the environment to modify behavior. While parapsychologists study this concept in terms of luck, research has shown that PMIR may also be a pervasive influence on *psi* research. For instance, Rhea White noted that "It is concluded that in *psi* research it may not be possible to differentiate between the experimenter and his experiment, and, therefore, between *psi*-mediated experimenter and *psi*-mediated experimental effects." Experimental studies involving the PMIR model have tended to validate the concept.

As we learn to focus our attention on living in accordance with the principles of nature, our conscious awareness of our spiritual self becomes more lucid. We become more aware of the environmental energies—auric, connection to the matrix of living things and the sense of forces influencing our life. In terms of modern-day parapsychology, this would be PMIR; however, we feel the concept may be mislabeled. It might be more correct to describe the response to the influence of environmental in-

formation sensed through a person's subtle senses as "*Psi*-Informed Response." We do this every day.

From: "The Limits of Experimenter Influence on Psi Test Results: Can Any Be Set? By Rhea A. White, *Journal of the American Society for Psychical Research*, aspr.com/limits.htm

Drumming for Health: A study examining the physiological effects of group drumming looked at 111 participants in a HealthRHYTHMS Empowerment Drumming group. Participants showed a statistically significant increase in natural killer cell activity after a one-hour group session.



Natural Killer cells (NK) are the white blood cells that seek out and destroy cancer and virally infected cells. Additionally,

the protocol appears to reverse specific neuroendocrine and neuroimmune patterns of change associated with the classic stress response.

The program is based upon the protocol developed from medical research that shows the health benefits of drumming with a group, including stress reduction, mood improvement and a boost to the immune system. It was conducted by a team led by Neurologist Barry Bittman and was funded by Remo, Inc.

From: "Interview - Impact on the Immune System" by Remo D. Belli, 2001. remo.com/portal/pages/hr/research/Interview+Immune+System.html (Photo from MidiaWiki Commons)

Dead Daughter Calls Home: A story in the *Times of Omen* talks about how Dr. John Craggs, a psychologist at Chicago University, verified a phone call when the parents of a deceased girl came to him and told him they were sure they had received phone calls from her. "With the family's agreement, he attached a tape-recording device to the phone, triggered to operate when the phone rang. On August 3, 1960 the phone rang and was answered by Peggy's mother. The device began to record and the resulting tape was later lodged in the archives



of the American Society for Psychical Research. A published transcript of the conversation reads in part: A girl's voice: "Mum is that you. I love you. Give my love to daddy, too. I am very happy. Please don't cry like you did last time." Mrs. Fox: "Peggy, darling, is that really you?" Girl's voice: "You mustn't be upset. I will try to..." At this point the phone went dead. Dr. Craggs later wrote: "The tape was played to several of Peggy Fox's friends. They all said they were certain it was her voice. So did her grandparents and her school teacher."

From: "The mystery of the phantom phone calls," by John Macklin/Tony James Features, timesofoman.com/News/Article-11979.aspx, March 28, 2013 (Photo from Microsoft Clip Art)

Integrating Transformative Experiences: There is a new website that might be of assistance to those who have had a transformative spiritual experience. The American Center for the Integration of Spiritually Transformative Experiences has created a website to help people with issues that may arise from such an experience. Some of the Transformative Experiences referred to are Near-Death Experiences (NDE), Out-of-Body Experiences (OBE), Exceptional Human Experiences (EHE), After-Death Communications (ADC), spiritual emergencies and others. The Center says that common challenges include; processing a radical shift in reality, accepting the return and "homesickness," issues related to sharing the experience, integrating new spiritual values with earthly expectations, problems dealing with psychic abilities, increased sensitivity to electricity, chemicals, smells, sounds and a yearning to find and live one's purpose. Depending on the severity of these challenges and other life factors, an experiencer may have difficulty with isolation, depression, anxiety, divorce, substance abuse or financial distress. The people behind the website are well known and reputable.

From: aciste.org/index.php/about-stes/common-challenges-of-an-ste

Public's Views on Human Evolution: According to a Pew Research Center analysis, six-in-ten Americans (60%) say that "Humans and other living things have evolved over time," while a third (33%) reject the idea of evolution, saying that "humans and other living things have existed in their present form since the beginning of time."

About half of those who believe in human

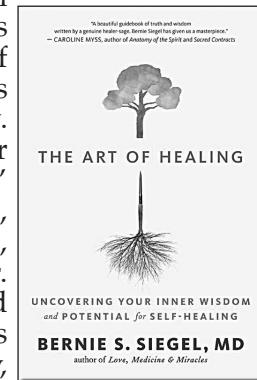
evolution believe it is "due to natural processes such as natural selection" (32% of the American public overall). About a quarter of adults (24%) say that "A supreme being guided the evolution of living things for the purpose of creating humans and other life in the form it exists today." Interestingly, more Republicans doubt evolution (48%) while only 27% of Democrats doubt evolution.

From: "Public's Views on Human Evolution," Pew Research Center, pewforum.org/2013/12/30/publics-views-on-human-evolution, December, 2013

The Art of Healing: In 1979, Dr. Bernie S. Siegel, a successful surgeon, took a class from Elisabeth Kübler-Ross that focused on crayon drawing for healing, especially with patients facing life-threatening disease. Siegel incorporated these techniques into his practice—many of which were laughed at by others in the medical community. But his Exceptional Cancer Patients "carefrontation" protocol facilitated healings, often deemed miraculous, and attracted attention. "Dr. Bernie" discovered and shared the fact that, while patients might need antibiotics, surgery, radiation and chemotherapy, their bodies also want to heal. He found that this innate propensity could be aided by unconventional practices, including drawing.

Why? Drawing produces symbols often representing the subconscious. Siegel shows how to interpret drawings to help with everything from understanding why we are sick to making treatment decisions and communicating with loved ones. All those facing ill health, and those caring for them, personally and professionally, will welcome the hands-on, patient-proven practices offered here.

From: Siegel, Bernie S., Hurn, Cynthia J., *The Art of Healing: Uncovering Your Inner Wisdom and Potential for Self-Healing*, New World Library, 2013, ISBN-10: 1608681858



Ponder on This

"We have a situation in which proof of survival after death must first be established as the condition of obtaining a center of gravity for the reorganization of the virtues. The old view that it could be based on the nature of consciousness as a non-physical phenomenon will not avail any longer."

—James H. Hyslop, Ph.D., LL.D.



The Map of Heaven: How Science, Religion, and Ordinary People Are Proving the Afterlife, by Eben Alexander III, M.D., Simon & Schuster, 2014. Hardcover US\$21.99; paperback US\$16.99; e-book US\$16.99; audio US\$24.99.

My work requires the study of lovely though imprecise maps by early cartographers of the Mississippi Territory. Each new mapmaker, however, drew upon the work of the last and improved the outcome. Eben Alexander's *Map of Heaven* describes a map emerging from our growing exploration of the afterlife. He is not offering Rand-McNally precision; in fact he uses the word "sketch" interchangeably with "map." He describes a collaborative cartographic project in progress—and demonstrates quite well its worth.

I was drawn to Alexander's first book, *Proof of Heaven: A Neurosurgeon's Journey into the Afterlife* (Simon & Schuster, 2012), by his credentials: a Harvard-educated neurosurgeon who experienced the afterlife while in a coma. His intellectual background and prior skepticism lent his NDE account credibility above many similar stories. In reviewing this new title, however, I came across an article in the August 2013 *Esquire* that called into question Alexander's medical integrity and his NDE account. Thanks, though, to an excellent critique by Robert May of the International Association for Near-Death Studies and CBS statistics on neurosurgeon malpractice, I have since come to question the journalistic ethics behind the *Esquire* article. Still, I am grateful that the article caused me to do what we should do in reading all NDE accounts, given the lucrative market for them: We should read them with, for lack of a better term, "skeptical openness." It was with this eye I read Alexander's second book and found my faith in his story restored by the exercise. His near-death-experience produced a new life and man—the best possible evidence of authenticity.

Before his seven-day coma from bacterial meningitis, Alexander believed in science above all. His NDE, however, forced him to acknowledge that scientists—beyond a few quantum thinkers—have missed the essential truth of the human experience by failing to take into account consciousness. Now working toward a "Theory of Everything," they are not answering the most essential human questions: "Who are we? Where did we come from? Where are we going?" Alexander encourages science and overly dogmatic religions to embrace the spiritual wisdom of everyday people to refine a heaven-

centric "Map of Everything." He writes, "I believe that heaven makes us human, that without a knowledge that it is where we come from and where we're going—that it is our true country—life makes no sense."

Alexander surveys and summarizes the theories of many philosophers and scientists, along with personal NDE accounts—his own and those drawn from letters he receives. One of the great values of the book lies in Alexander's ability to simplify complex philosophical ideas, demonstrating their correspondence to the questions of the afterlife. While the organization of the material under "Gifts" (of Knowledge, Strength, Joy, and others) is a bit strained in the execution, the content is packed with useful insights.

For those who purchase the book in hopes of getting Alexander's own map of heaven, as he saw it, the most robust material lies in Chapter 6 and beyond. He acknowledges the same limits other NDE survivors have reported: the inability to express mind-expanding experiences in our limited language. He writes that the "ultra-real" realms of heaven "flow with emotion, with warmth that is more than simply physical, and with other qualities far above and beyond my ability to describe.... The worlds above are not general, not vague." In trying to express a oneness that is not sameness, he says, "But in all this vast variety there is not that sense of otherness that characterizes this world, where one thing is itself alone and has nothing directly to do with the other things around it. Nothing is isolated there. Nothing is alienated. Nothing is disconnected. Everything is one, without that oneness in any way suggesting homogeneity: that is, being all mashed together." He also describes the landscape of heaven as similar to earth—only appearing with great vividness, everything infused with love and without the limits that earth presents for our development.

The book wraps up with exciting descriptions of the work Alexander and others are doing in the pursuit of this "Map of Everything." He claims that the answers to the universal questions "lie within us all," and encourages readers to get ready to play their part. This book is a very fine primer for those who seek to take a role in the ever-refining cartography of heaven.



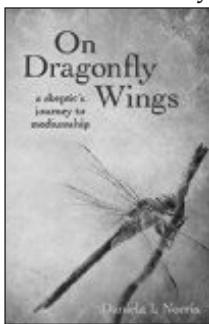
—Donna Cox Baker
donnacoxbaker@att.net

On Dragonfly Wings: a skeptic's journey to mediumship, by Daniela L. Norris, Axis Mundi Books, UK 2014, 153 pages, \$13.66 pb, \$6.15 Kindle

When her brother Michael died at the age of 20, Daniela Norris, the author, began to experience a dramatic change in the way she approached life. "Somehow, the spiritual side of me completely took over the 'down to earth' side, and as I had more and more experience of communicating with the world beyond ours, I also felt more and more detached from people around me, even from my very own body," she explains, after pointing out that she had had some childhood experiences of a mystical or spiritual nature but had for the most part ignored those in her pursuit of adventure and excitement in the material world.

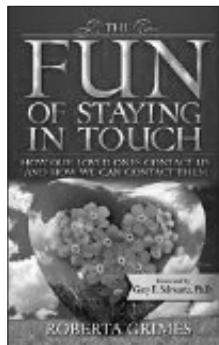
"In the months following Michael's death, I found it easier to close my eyes and communicate with ghosts than to face the uncomfortable stares of people in town," she continues. "...There was just this feeling of total comfort, of warmth, of a *knowing* that made it all better."

In pursuing a more spiritual path, Norris, a former diplomat from Israel who now lives



The Fun of Staying in Touch: How Our Loved Ones Contact Us And How We Can Contact Them, by Roberta Grimes, Greater Reality Publications, Normal, IL, 2014, 169 pages, \$9.95 pb, \$3.99 Kindle

As the author sees it, "death has gotten an undeservedly bad rap." A properly-executed death, she adds, is perhaps the best time of a person's life. Such a philosophy did not develop overnight. It started with a childhood experience, one so powerful that she majored in religion at Smith College in an attempt to make sense of it. Not finding any answers in her college studies, she was about ready to give up her search when, at age 20, she had another mystical experience. There is no doubt in her mind today that the two experiences were *real*, meaning they were not imaginary, not dreams, not hallucinations, and she has never doubted the existence of God since that second experience. While she continues to practice law in Massachusetts and Texas, she finds much fulfillment in her hobby – reading, writing, and talking about dying, death, and afterlife subjects.



near Geneva, Switzerland, delved into past-life regressions, channeling, shamanism, and mediumship. She learned about spirit attachment, spirit midwifery, soul groups, and dowsing, developing to the point where she became a therapist herself, as well as a medium. "Spirit attachments became one of my favorite subjects to deal with as a therapist," she writes, "and people who had spirit attachments released reported a newfound lightness in their lives, for these energies that did not belong with them often weighted them down and caused them to do things they did not necessarily intend to do."

Over a period of about four years, Norris experienced a metamorphosis, one in which her connections with the Other Side made this life more meaningful and purposeful. "The magic of the journey is such that once one is no longer afraid to walk down this path – no matter how slow or how fast – the view on the way is stunning," she ends the book. "Secrets unfold with every step and there is no need to prove anything to anyone – as each one of us walks at their own pace."

The reader who is grieving the loss of a loved one or who is simply looking for the path leading toward a more meaningful life should find much to ponder on in this very interesting book.

— Michael Tynn
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Over the years, Roberta Grimes has assembled a small library of books on near-death experiences, afterlife communications, reincarnation, apparitions, and related metaphysical subjects, as well as what she calls "quantum physics for dummies books" and books on the topic of consciousness. She published two novels in the early 1990s, both recently republished, but she wouldn't write about the afterlife until she was confident that she had figured it out. "This is about much more than the afterlife," she says. "It really is a whole new science!" Her first nonfiction book about death and the afterlife, *The Fun of Dying*, was published in 2010. That book was republished this year, together with this book, *The Fun of Staying in Touch*, on the topic of afterlife communication.

As she states in the Introduction, the book is meant to be an overview for those with little knowledge of the field. However, even those with considerable knowledge might find something new or something that is a refresher. Although I am fairly familiar with the subject matter, I was intrigued by the section having to do with the discussion of communication by pendulums, something I had not really considered previously.

— Michael Tynn
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Jackie's Perspectives

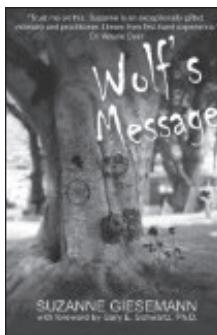


I looked forward to reading and reviewing *Wolf's Message* by Suzanne Giesemann with foreword by Gary E. Schwartz, Ph.D. Upon receipt of the book I was further intrigued by the praise this book has received from Schwartz, Kenneth Ring, Ph.D., author of *Lessons from the Light*, Wayne Dyer, D.Ed., Caroline Myss, author of *Anatomy of the Spirit*, and Barbara E. Fields, Ph.D., executive director, Association for Global New Thought, and John R. Audette, co-founder of the International Association for Near-Death Studies and co-founder and president of Eternea & Quantrek.

Suzanne is a retired U.S. Navy commander who was special assistant to the chief of naval operations and aide to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In a fascinating transition, she became an evidential medium offering excellent evidence of the continuation of life after physical death. This shift is outlined in her book: *Messages of Hope: The Metaphysical Memoir of a Most Unexpected Medium*.

Notably, a percentage of the income from Wolf's message is contributed to the Renewing Hope for Humanity project of Eternea, a global educational and outreach organization dedicated to inspiring transformation in human nature and civilization. Chaired by Dr. Schwartz, Eternea sponsors and advances scientific research and public education about spiritually transformative experiences and the nature of consciousness. Suzanne is the chairman of Eternea's Spirituality Leadership Council. (See www.Eternea.org)

This extraordinary account tells of a beloved, popular and gifted young man named Wolf. This exceptional person loved animals, art and poetry, yet he felt he simultaneously lived in two worlds, namely our physical world and the non-physical spirit realms. He was frequently engulfed in ineffable, mystical experiences and was diagnosed schizophrenic. Tragically, Wolf was hit by lightning besides a tree. Two days later, his grief stricken parents, Mike and Beth, visited Wolf's apartment and discovered his drawing of himself being hit by lightning next to a tree! Wolf had also written a poem clearly showing, as Suzanne mentions, that he knew how, where and when he would die. The poem reads: "Spirit of Great Healer, awaken from within this heart, peace and tranquility flow like water, The time has come, To allow the light of nature, To free my soul..."



Two days before Suzanne's interview with his parents, Wolf unexpectedly communicated to Suzanne outstanding and convincing evidence of the survival of his consciousness, the details of which Suzanne later conveyed to Wolf's parents as outlined in her book. Wolf also requested Suzanne have his messages tested for their accuracy which Professor Schwartz duly carried out.

This book offers excellent evidence of the post-death survival of the clearly identifiable personality or consciousness of Wolf and validates communications from him. The most urgent and key message amongst Wolf's communications to Suzanne is "humanity needs to learn how to balance mind and heart."

In the Foreword, Professor Schwartz describes some of the steps on his academic journey that have led to his present-day mission, researching and validating gifted, evidential mediums such as Suzanne. With a Harvard Ph.D., Schwartz became a Harvard and Yale professor and now serves as the professor at five departments at the University of Arizona. After over 40 years of research and having written over four-hundred scientific papers, his careful explorations and analysis, have led him from conventional research to the frontlines of science, demanding of him determination, sincerity and openness. He notes he has had the honor of testing and authenticating the results of more than 24 of the most remarkably talented contemporary mediums, one of whom is Suzanne Giesemann.

In Schwartz's praise for Wolf and the evidence so accurately received by Suzanne, he quotes William James, one of the pioneers of psychology and psychological research: "In order to disprove the law that all crows are black, you need only find one white crow." In my personal research as reported in three books, I have had the privilege to document scientifically the existence of more than two dozen genuine "white crow" mediums.

James's same logic can be applied to "spirits." Scientific research is now beginning to document the existence of genuine "post-physical beings" who continue to care not only about their loved ones, but also their "extended family" of humanity, animals, plants, and the planet as a whole. The firm conclusion that I have drawn after carefully examining all the evidence is that Wolf is a "white crow" spirit, and that his substantial efforts and sustaining messages deserve to be honored, celebrated, and, above all, heeded.

Regarding the evidence for every soul's post-death survival and Wolf's profound and evidential

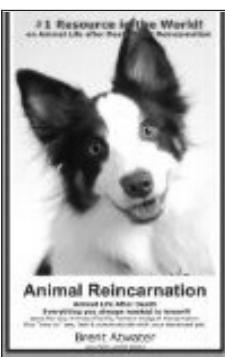
communications through Suzanne, Suzanne adds: "Wolf's message will take you on a personal journey to the epicenter of your soul. Like stepping into Antelope Canyon, one cannot hear Wolf's story without experiencing a shift to another world. It is the world from which all of us come and to which the soul longs to return. The Wolf comes when we most need guidance in our lives. He is a teacher and a pathfinder. [Wolf] came to bring greater awareness of our dual nature and to lead us back to the source of our own inner beauty; the heart. He came to show us how to go home."

This 178-page book, published in 2014, is obtainable from Amazon.com for \$16.95.

* * *

Respecting and indeed, heeding, Wolf's plea for humanity to be more compassionate, I include here, my review of *Animal Reincarnation* by Brent Atwater. Many animals are so often downtrodden by elements of humanity, and it helps to expand our spiritual awareness by assessing beliefs and evidence for their souls' post-death survival and the spiritual lessons, many believe, animals teach us. Such evidence offers a deeper, improved understanding of the nature of fellow animals including healing and solace to those grief-stricken by the physical loss at death of an adopted pet companion.

As a youth, Brent's abilities were documented by Dr. J. B. Rhine, the eminent researcher of extra sensory perception based at Duke University, USA. After law school and the tragic loss of her fiancé, Brent Atwater has gone on to date to publish around fourteen books translated into many languages available from Amazon and Barnes & Noble. These books are most particularly concerned with animals and the evidence she has collected concerning her healing abilities and animal healing abilities, including case studies regarding animal post-death survival and reincarnation.



For over 20 years Brent has worked at her popular and respected medical intuitive diagnostic practice. She believes her case studies to be evidence based, and that she sees the organs, nerves, bones and tissue inside the body including health weaknesses. Notably, Brent is believed to have regenerated the nerves on her dog's spinal cord and vertebra, a process recorded by the N.C. Veterinary Association. She has given presentations to this association and tutored at the New York Open Center. She founded MIDI, the Medical Intuitive Diagnostic Imaging and AMIDI for animals.

Known as the animal medium and animal communicator, Brent established the Just Plain Love Charitable Trust in 1987 and raises funds for animal welfare and rescue by publicly demonstrating her

gifts communicating with animals in the afterlife realms. Brent works tirelessly on her books, blogs, speaking tours, one to one consultations and radio podcasts, <http://www.petliferadio.com/aliveagain.html>. Often accompanied by Friend, her Border Collie, together they seek to raise awareness regarding animals and heal the bereaved. Interestingly, Friend has a natural white marking identical to a "B" shape on the lower part of his black body almost identical to the "B" in Brent's signature.

"The belief in Reincarnation," Brent explains, "dates back as far as the ancient Egyptians. Others that embrace reincarnation are the Buddhist, Hindu, Jainism, Indian and Taoism religions including historic figures such as Plato and Socrates...[reincarnation] means you believe that a soul's life force energy is immortal, i.e., ongoing and infinite....The transmigration process is the belief that the spirit / soul of the deceased body passes into successive bodily forms." She adds that in 2007, a respected British leading independent research company called "YouGov" conducted a study and found that dogs proved to be the type of animal most likely to be considered reincarnated by pet owners. Fifty-one percent said they had or have dogs that they believe reincarnated while 44 percent said their cats had returned."

Brent discourages the bereaved from attending negative pet loss groups: "A positive animal bereavement group discourages group members from maintaining a "my pet is gone forever" victim mentality... [for] 'sympathy attention.' They understand this is a confusing and complicated time in your life. Animal Hope counselors offer uplifting approaches to addressing your new life without your cherished pet. A positive moderator's job is to facilitate your moving through this time of emotional pain and loneliness and not to enable self-pity and ongoing anguish."

In these pages, Brent answers a wide range of spiritually orientated questions regarding animals. To elaborate on one, she agrees with the concept that many animal souls incarnate to fulfill a chosen purpose: "...it may be to learn with you, live with you during a specific phase of your life, teach you lessons, experience a lesson themselves, save your life, teach you emotions or how to love, provide an opportunity for you to learn animal communication, volunteer at pet healthcare facilities, script a law to benefit others, start a rescue group, raise funds for pet causes...Never discount any new feelings of what you 'might want to do' after their lifetime because that inspiration could be the purpose!"

As I see it, each and every animal's soul is a spirit composed of eternal life force energy that lives forever in our vast universe.

This 181-page book is published by www.Just-PlainLoveBooks.com.

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Intelligent Design Lives On!

by Howard Jones, Ph.D.

Intelligent Design (ID) has had a bad press! Scientists don't like the idea because it invokes the participation of some supra-material agency with divine organizing and controlling powers. One of the main protagonists of ID in its reincarnation in the 1990s was professor of biochemistry at Lehigh University, Michael Behe. His suggestion of the "irreducible complexity" of certain living structures, like the eye and the cilia used for locomotion was shown to be flawed inasmuch as rudimentary but effective structures of these kinds had been found throughout the course of evolution. Following Behe's work, statistician and philosopher William Dembski suggested that the coming together of all the factors that are needed to cohere in order to create such refined structures of what he called "specified complexity" was statistically improbable.

Theologians don't like ID because it suggests a Divinity that needs to keep tinkering in earthly affairs to put things right. The idea of an Intelligent Designer has a history that goes back to the work of William Paley in the 18th century. It is a moot point too whether the actions of deity can be rationalized by examining this or that feature of the natural world or whether the essence of deity is that it should be ineffable. Of course, there are many scientists who keep a strand of thought tied to both philosophies: they apply logic and reason in their day-to-day materialist science but have no trouble inhabiting the spiritual world of the divine in their prayer and ritual.

So is there any place for such an idea as ID in a rational world where most people still cling to the concept of some form of interventional deity? The two philosophies – rational and spiritual – may not be as incompatible as they first seem. Their complementarity was well represented by one of the pioneers of the theory of evolution, Alfred Russel Wallace.

Now, we have a Strong and a Weak Anthropic Principle that suggests that the universe – or at least the small portion of it that humankind inhabits – was specifically designed and evolved in such a way that it was suitable for the evolution of Man, as elaborated by Paul Davies in his books *The Cosmic Blueprint* and *The Goldilocks Enigma* and more comprehensively in Barrow and Tipler's book *The Anthropic Cosmological Principle*.

I would suggest that we also have a Strong and a



Howard Jones

Weak Intelligent Design theory. Strong ID is the belief of many fundamentalist theists that there is a Divinity that has controlled the whole process of human development, with or without any of the principles of evolution suggested by Charles Darwin and Alfred Wallace. The creation of the universe, they say, by a mechanism described popularly as the Big Bang, was under the control of a deity.

But there is also a Weak ID theory that finds a comfortable home in the ideologies of many scientists like Amit Goswami in his *Creative Evolution*, Denyse O'Leary in her book *By Design or by Chance*, and by quantum physicist turned Anglican priest John Polkinghorne in his book *Science and Creation*, among others. This is the idea that the suggestions of the theory of evolution are essentially correct and that the universe has been generated by physical mechanisms – whether as a singular cosmological event or as a gradual and continuing process by some variation of the steady-state theory suggested first by James Jeans and then by Fred Hoyle, Thomas Gold and Hermann Bondi. One modern suggestion is that underlying these physical processes is a comprehensive and interpenetrating cosmic spiritual energy (see Pfeiffer and Mack's *Mind Before Matter*), represented by physicists as the quantum zero-point field, which governs every process in the universe, including the process of Creation itself. Such a controlling agency is indistinguishable from the spiritual deity to be found at the heart of most major religions.

In recent decades several eminent philosophers of science have added their support to what is effectively Weak ID, though not described as such by them. The American physicist Walter M. Elsasser pointed out that the laws of physics relate to systems where properties represent an average value taken over huge numbers of particles. Biological systems deal with individuals, so new "biotonic laws" would be needed to describe these systems. Eugene Wigner claimed that the existence of consciousness alone was sufficient to make it impossible to describe life systems completely by the laws of physics and that concepts extending the present scope of the "laws of physics" would be necessary.

Recent studies of psychic events, such as OBEs and NDEs, and the wealth of verifiable material purporting to come from the afterlife by communications through mediums would seem to bear out the idea that an omnipresent cosmic energy field has indeed influenced and continues to guide events on the Earth plane, quite possibly operating through the mechanisms discovered by application of the laws of physics. Thus the notion of Intelligent Design lives on and there is a sense in which the spirit of the Divine is immanent in our everyday lives, expressed through our consciousness.

Evil and the Ego Principle in Homo Sapiens

by John White, M.A.T.

The source of all evil, the source of all suffering in human affairs has been personified as Satan. However, Satan must now be understood as the ego, that principle, that noetic process in human affairs which each and every one of us must go through to develop first of all a sense of separate selfhood, a sense of personal independence or autonomy. It is necessary to do that. We would not be able to function if we didn't. If we did not develop an ego, we would all remain at the level of infants crawling around on the floor. We would not have personality, let alone personhood.

So as we grow physically, we are also growing psychologically. The wonderful thing is that the creation of that sense of separate self, that autonomy, brings with it new powers, new capabilities. The ego is the vehicle through which our higher faculties and powers and abilities are expressed and developed in us. Enlightenment doesn't eliminate that. Just the opposite. The grace of God, as experienced through spiritual disciplines, allows us to retain all those capabilities and qualities which come with maturation, but we then use them in the service of the divine rather than in the service of the ego as we function in the world and continue our own process of self-transformation.

The ego is like nuclear power. If nuclear power were totally under the control of nothing but the ego, all we would have are atomic bombs and nuclear weapons. However, we have nuclear power plants which are not destructive, but constructive. That is to say, ideally speaking, they provide the power and electricity which light our homes and which would not be available to us if we were totally dependent on fossil fuels.

Now, that example is open to criticism because there are significant drawbacks to nuclear power. My point is this: the same function—mental abilities—which human engineers bring to the creation of nuclear weapons were brought to the creation of nuclear power plants for an entirely different purpose, namely, peaceful generation of electricity to keep our society powered.

Likewise, the development of our mental abilities through the creation of the ego-formation process brings us traits and capabilities which are not lost when the ego is transcended. Those traits and capabilities remain in place, but they are used for a radically different purpose. They are used for the glorification of God, for service to other people, to create human happiness and benefit rather than the pain and suffering, which the ego creates as it uses those qualities and capabilities to inflict itself on people.

So, rightly understood, Satan is playing a mighty role in the redemption of fallen humanity and was ordained to do so from the beginning of time, since creation. And although Satan is not aware of it, certainly God is because it is part of God's plan for creation. Although God granted Satan free will to rebel and disobey and seek to subvert the kingdom of God, even Satan at the end of time will be redeemed or saved by God's love for all creation. God will settle for nothing less than salvation of the entire cosmos, including the intermediate plane of satanic will and pride, pathological ego-consciousness.

Ironically, Satan will, as Milton put it in *Paradise Lost*, justify God's ways to Man. Satan, properly understood, is really a cosmic being of enormous power and intelligence. Satan is not anthropomorphic. He does not have a physical body and does not speak language through vocal cords. His communications and influence are much more subtle than that. Satan is, in human terms, precisely the psychological experience which leads each of us to develop a separate self sense with which we identify. As the egoic identity becomes stronger, it brings along with it new powers of mind and body. It also brings along fantasies and self-aggrandizing urges.

The bottom line is this: the ego is ultimately a gift from God. However, you can't truly appreciate that until you're on the far side of ego and you cannot transcend ego until you first have an ego. It is inevitable and in accordance with God's purpose for us that each and every human being come to that condition and develop an ego. The source of all suffering and all evil in the world is human beings who are stuck at that level. They identify themselves ultimately with their ego rather than recognizing it as an intermediate stage or process on the path of God-realization.

In seeing through the illusion of ego, what have you lost? When you lose an illusion, when you are disillusioned, what have you lost? Only a trick of the mind, only a misperception, a misunderstanding. Which is another way of saying you have lost nothing but rather, paradoxically, have gained a clearer perception of reality.



INTERVIEW

*From page 1
philosophy when taking into consideration the immensely broad-spectrum of human consciousness?*

"We approach the two different systems of reality using similar, but necessarily distinguishable, tools. This is because when we deal with problems of human behavior we are dealing with a non-rational realm. The limitations of rationalism and empiricism are that they each consider themselves the *only* valid or truth-producing system of thought. In contrast, in the East it is often believed that the highest level of consciousness is best attained through internal searching. This is what has been taught for millennia."

Why is there such resistance to psychical research and parapsychology?

"Anyone who looks at the dimension of our human consciousness studied by psychical and paranormal studies scholars immediately knows that what is discerned from that research doesn't come from our five everyday senses. But I know, and other psychical studies scholars know, that there are a multitude of good, well-tested, valid reports – for example – on deathbed apparitions. Yet most journals in the field of psychical studies or paranormal psychology will not publish them anymore. This is in part because there have been so many good cases already published. In spite of this well-reached and extensively published topic the overwhelming majority – extending to nearly 100% of our population – disbelieve in such reports. So much so that they resist them and fight against them and do everything they can to avoid mentioning those topics. Most members of the public call people who believe in deathbed apparitions or other forms of *psi* charlatans or soft-headed or primitive and ignorant."

"On the one hand no culture can survive unless it believes that what we take in with our five senses is true. But on the other hand man's profound truths can come from love, meditation, inner reflection, revelation, mystical experiences and the like. Having said all this, the fact of the matter is that our culture is dying and the time has come when we as a species would do a lot better if we start regarding this inner realm far more seriously."

How can fear, anger and insecurity influence a person's resistance to acquiring expanded consciousness? When delving into questions pertaining to life's possible meaning and the existence of a level of consciousness in which empiricism is incapable of comprehending – such as extrasensory perception and the possibility of the spirit realm – people often become quite terrified. Don't they?

"Psychologists call this reaction *catastrophic anxiety*. With that kind of anxiety a person's ego

feels like it is going to come apart. This is because you build your ego in accordance with the general structure within which you perceive the world. How you see the world and how your ego develops are mutually reinforcing phenomena. You take away one and the other weakens. Anthropologists also have a similar term for a class of beings whose reality has been taken away from them. They call such people *marginal men*. These are people whose meaning has been taken from them. A good example is the Plains Indian culture here in America where there are no more grassy prairies and there are no more Buffalo to hunt. Desolate Indian reservations have replaced the prairies and Buffalo. As a result, the lives of the people who live on these reservations have no meaning. The structure of their ego is supported by their perceptions of the structure of reality. So if the structure of reality is hopelessness the ego weakens because of the threat to its interior organization.

"Lesser catastrophes can happen to people when they divorce, lose their jobs, retire, suffer death of a loved one or when their children grow up and leave the home. Here too a similar anxiety often arises under such circumstances."

In your book, "A New Science of the Paranormal," you state that "large-scale psi events" will eventually move the human race off the Endangered Species List. Would you mind elaborating on that?

"The idea of *psi* of course means extrasensory perception. We are a scientific culture for better or worse. Our view of the world is built upon Isaac Newton's findings and the empiricist realm. This is all we as a culture believe in presently. We don't believe in these other realities. Most people think that metaphysicians are crazy. We don't really believe in artists and poets either. But there may come a time when the National Institutes of Health (NIH) becomes interested in studying the paranormal and then freely gives out grants for such studies. Or put another way, a large-scale *psi* event has occurred when federal, state, and local governments and private sector institutions no longer believe that *psi*, mystical experiences and the like are solely caused by delusions arising out of mental disorders. To date NIH and society as a whole have maintained this negative view of *psi* because they have limited themselves to looking through a very narrow lens. So long as this now pervasive attitude predominates within our society, large scale *psi* events—meaning that a solid majority of our citizenry fully accepts that extra sensory perception is a real and beneficial component of the human psyche—the human race will likely remain on the Endangered Species List."

Referring to Uvani, the spirit control for medium

Eileen Garrett, you once wrote that there is a class of "functional entities" not bound by the "normal" laws of space and who or which can move faster than light. You further stated that "the clairvoyant reality is primarily a way of perceiving functional entities." Would you elaborate on this a little?

"Let's begin with the question, 'Is there such a thing as a functional entity?' The answer is very simple. I take my telescope and point it to Altair over there then I sweep it away and point it to Rigel. The point of the telescope's focus moved hundreds of light years in two seconds. That's faster than light. You're not going to detect such a time shift with any kind of instruments. Likewise, nobody has succeeded in finding any physical aspects of the spirit control. You recall that often when a medium in trance started speaking in the voice of someone else their new persona is often referred to as a spirit control. That's the type of entity we are discussing here. They often behave in ways that you would regard as impossible according to Newton's Laws of Physics.

"I spent about 400 hours over a period of time talking with the being who called himself Uvani. He and I became very good friends. He was like an old drinking buddy. I almost miss him more than I miss Eileen Garrett. One day I said to Uvani, 'Tell me how it is that occasionally you can see into the future and I cannot.' Uvani answered, 'You are very intelligent but you're standing in the valley you live in and can see only so far. But we here in the spirit world are standing on top of a mountain and can see much farther.' I responded, 'Uvani, come off it!' He burst into laughter. He was that kind of persona. He could joke with you.

"Nobody has ever adequately explained what spirit controls are all about and how they are often pre-cognitive. In contrast to Uvani's prescience, the best most of us can do about future prediction is to use our dowsing pendulum by asking it 'yes' or 'no' questions. Dowsers are good about tuning into what they are picking up as pertaining to now or later. Clairvoyants and others with precognitive skills are often unable to nail down the exact time of the events they can see precognitively."

In your book "Landscapes of the Mind," you state that there are four realms (ways of construing reality,) including one you called "The Non-quan-

titative/ Continuous Realm" which "is conceived as an integral part of the All, the One that includes everything that exists and in which nothing can be quantified and from which nothing can be separated." Within this context how do you explain the nature of psi and of mystical experiences?

"We have to change our definition of human beings. That is what most non-allopathic medical healing is about. Healing is not unrelated to *psi*. It's a fourth-realm non-quantitative reality and its very nature exemplifies our inter-connectedness. So I was attracted to the topic and learned about a Benedictine nun in her 80s who ran a nunnery as a lady abbess and she was also a healer. I went to see her and asked her to teach me what she knew about healing. The Benedictines have been doing healing for many centuries. She said to me, 'I'm going to tell you a story. I'm the absolute ruler of this monastery. My word is absolute to the 37 nuns who live and work here. But every morning I go and clean the rooms of seven different nuns. I mop the floors, make the beds, and clean up the place. Now that's ridiculous in one sense because I am the abbess. The reason I do the cleaning is because I know the context in which I do this work.' She then asked me, 'What is the context for your studying healing?' I told her I didn't know. She said, 'This conversation is at an end. When you do know the context come back and we'll talk.'

"A year later I called her up again and said, now I have the context and she invited me to come back to see her. When I arrived I told her that I want to study healing because it's a way for me to grow, for me to gain something more out of my life. She said, 'Good. That's the right answer. Sit down and we'll chat.' She had been a lawyer during World War II and she also then worked in the French underground. I attended several retreats with her which involved three or four days of total silence. I attended the liturgies there and heard the nuns' marvelous singing. I walked around the grounds and felt close to nature. I grew from those experiences and I found these retreats of much value in my general growth and spiritual development.

"In appreciation for all this you can imagine that I wanted to bring the abbess a gift. But what do you bring as a gift to 38 nuns? I had come to know too well that their institutional food is usually pretty dull. So I went down to Houston Street and got the biggest most garlic-filled salami you've ever seen. I went back and gave it to the lady abbess and asked her if I could present her with a gift. She said, 'We love to receive gifts.' I handed the wrapped salami to her. She unwrapped it and I saw her take a good sniff. Then she said, 'Boy, when it comes to giving out gifts you sure know how to turn a girl on.'"



Eileen Garrett

Automatic Writing as Explained by The Hon. Sidney Dean

Sidney Dean (1818 – 1901) was a member of Congress representing Connecticut from 1855 to 1859. Prior to that, he served as a Methodist and Episcopal minister. He later worked as a journalist and author. It is unclear when, but at some point he wrote the following letter to Professor William James of Harvard describing his automatic writing. It is unknown whether any of Dean's automatic writing was published or preserved.

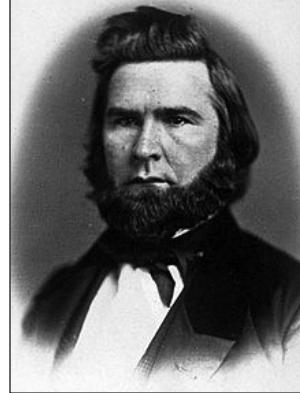
"Some of it is in hieroglyph, or strange compounded arbitrary characters, each series possessing a seeming unity in general design or character, followed by what purports to be a translation or rendering into mother English. I never attempted the seemingly impossible feat of copying the characters. They were cut with the precision of a graver's tool, and generally with a single rapid stroke of the pencil. Many languages, some obsolete and passed from history, are professedly given. To see them would satisfy you that no one could copy them except by tracing.

"These, however, are but a small part of the phenomena. The 'automatic' has given place to the impressional, and when the work is in progress I am in the normal condition, and seemingly two minds, intelligences, persons, are practically engaged. The writing is in my own hand but the dictation not of my own mind and will, but that of another, upon subjects which I can have no knowledge and hardly a theory; and I, myself, consciously criticise the thought, fact, mode of expressing it, etc., while the hand is recording the subject matter and even the words impressed to be written. If I refuse to write the sentence, or even the word, the impression instantly ceases, and my willingness must be mentally expressed before the work is resumed, and it is resumed at the point of cessation, even if it should be in the middle of a sentence. Sentences are commenced without knowledge of mine as to their subject or ending. In fact, I have never known in advance the subject of disquisition.

"There is in progress now, at uncertain times, not subject to my will, a series of twenty-four chapters upon the scientific features of life, moral, spiritual, eternal. Seven have already been written in the manner indicated. There were preceded by twenty-four chapters relating generally to the life beyond material death, its characteristics, etc. Each chapter is signed by the name of some person who has lived on earth – some with whom I have been personally acquainted, others known in history...I know nothing of the alleged authorship of any chapter until it is completed and the name impressed and

appended...I am interested not only in the reputed authorship – of which I have nothing corroborative – but in the philosophy taught, of which I was in ignorance until these chapters appeared. From my standpoint of life – which has been that of biblical orthodoxy – the philosophy is new, seems to be reasonable, and is logically put. I confess to an inability to successfully controvert it to my own satisfaction.

"It is an intelligent



Sidney Dean

ego who writes, or else the influence assumes individuality, which practically makes of the influence a personality. It is not myself; of that I am conscious at every step of the process. I have also traversed the whole field of 'unconscious cerebration,' so called, so far as I am competent to critically examine it, and it fails, as a theory, in numberless points, when applied to this strange work

through me. It would be far more reasonable and satisfactory for me to accept the silly hypothesis of re-incarnation – the old doctrine of metempsychosis – as taught by some spiritualists to-day, and to believe that I lived a former life here, and that once in a while it dominates my intellectual power, and writes chapters upon the philosophy of life, or opens a post-office for spirits to drop their effusions, and have them put into English script. No, the easiest and most natural solution to me is to admit the claim made, i.e., that it is a decarnated intelligence who writes. But who? that is the question. The names of scholars and thinkers who once lived are affixed to the most ungrammatical and weakest of bosh...

"It seems reasonable to me – upon the hypothesis that it is a person using another's mind or brain – that there must be more or less of that other's style or tone incorporated in the message, and that to the unseen personality, i.e., the power which impresses, the thought, the fact, or the philosophy, and not the style or tone, belongs. For instance, while the influence is impressing my brain with the greatest force and rapidity, so that my pencil fairly flies over the paper to record the thoughts, I am conscious that, in many cases, the vehicle of the thought, i.e., the language, is very natural and familiar to me, as if somehow, my personality as a writer was getting mixed up with the message. And, again, the style, language, everything is entirely foreign to my own style."

CONFERENCE

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- What We've Learned about the Afterlife from a Son Who Took His Own Life – Anne Puryear, D.D.
- Metaphysics Research Uncovers the Truth about the Afterlife – Donna Smith-Moncrieffe, CrimDip, M.S.
- Is Heaven Really UP? If Not, Where Is It? – Roberta Grimes, Esq.
- The Nature of the Afterlife, Its Landscapes, and Inhabitants – Jackie Jones-Hunt, Ph.D.
- What a Son Now in the Afterlife Has Described to His Mother about Life There – Carol Morgan
- Life, Love, and Sex after Death – Miles Allen
- The soul, life plans, reincarnation, and past lives**
- Why We Know Jesus Taught Reincarnation – Herb Puryear, Ph.D.
- What We Now Know about Past Lives and Reincarnation – Dick Sutphen, CCHT
- Your Soul Is Your Real Self – Karen Herrick, Ph.D.
- Your Soul's Plan: Why You Chose This Life – Rob Schwartz, Hypnotist

Judgment, punishment, and progress in the afterlife

- What We Now Know about Judgment and Punishment in the Afterlife – Victor Zammit, Ph.D.
- Heaven and Hell As They Really Are: What "The Dead" Are Telling Us – Stafford Betty, Ph.D.

SPECIAL EVENTS: MATERIALIZATION MEDIUM TRANCE AND SÉANCE DEMONSTRATIONS

David Thompson, materialization medium, will hold two séances and give a demonstration of trance mediumship. Séances are limited to 30 people per séance. Fee: \$170

WORKSHOPS DURING THE CONFERENCE

There will be three workshops held during the conference:

- How to Use a Black Mirror to Communicate with Loved Ones in the Afterlife – Rosemary Guiley, author of
The Art of Black Mirror Scrying (2-hour presentation)
– Fee: \$45
- Your Soul Is Your Real Self – Karen Herrick, Ph.D.
(2-hour presentation) – Free

New Members:

Abby Keiser, Boerne, TX
Dorothy Mulligan – Arlington, VA
Cheryl Pesci, Seal Beach, CA
Mary Torrey, Westminster, CO



Donations:
Dorothy Mulligan
Howard Jones
David Kowalewski
Sylvia Hart-Wright
David P. Stang

- How to Use the Pendulum to Communicate with Loved Ones in the Afterlife – Carol Morgan – Free

WORKSHOPS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CONFERENCE

Five workshops will be held immediately after the conference:

- How to Use a Black Mirror to Communicate with Loved Ones in the Afterlife – Rosemary Guiley (3-hour presentation)
- Recognizing Your Soul Seeds in Dreams, Spiritual Experiences, Illness, and Grief – Karen Herrick, Ph.D. –
(3-hour presentation) Fee: \$50
- Understanding the Anatomy and Physiology of Your Soul: How Soul Communication Works – Lee Lawrence – Fee: \$35
- Exploring the Afterlife – Bruce Moen – (2 days) – Fee: \$150
- Repair & Reattachment Therapy / Guided Afterlife Connections (available only to state-licensed psychotherapists) – Rochelle Wright, M.A. – Fee: \$395

FEES AND REGISTRATION

- Super early-bird fee until May 15, 2015, is \$175.
- Early-bird fee until July 15, 2015, is \$195.
- Full price after July 15, 2015, is \$225.
- The Saturday evening banquet costs an extra fee of \$80.

Register by linking to the registration form at <http://www.ascsi.org/conference/> or by calling (800) 690-4232.

The Searchlight is published six times a year (February, April, June, August, October, December) by The Academy for Spiritual and Consciousness Studies, Inc.

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Opinions and interests expressed in *The Searchlight* are those of the authors and should not be construed as indicative of approval or concurrence by The Academy for Spiritual and Consciousness Studies, Inc. (ASCS) and its Board of Directors or Advisory Council.



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MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of The Academy for Spiritual and Consciousness Studies, Inc. is to discern, develop and disseminate knowledge of how consciousness studies and paranormal phenomena may relate to and enhance the development of the human spirit.

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The Searchlight— February 2015

Life in the Afterlife

The Afterlife Research and Education Section of the Academy for Spiritual and Consciousness Studies will hold a conference on Life in the Afterlife September 25-27 at the Embassy Suites in Scottsdale, Arizona. For details and reservations, link to <http://www.ascsi.org/conference/> or call (800) 690-4232.

PRESENTATION TOPICS AND PRESENTERS

The keynote speaker will be Gary E. Schwartz, Ph.D., speaking on The State of Afterlife Research Today.

The conference will have presenters in six broad areas of the afterlife:

Before the transition, immediately afterward, and in the days that follow

- Pre-death and Deathbed Visions – Carla Wills-Brandon, M.A.
- Where People Find Themselves after the Transition – R. Craig Hogan, Ph.D.
- People Who Are Stuck and Need to Be Rescued – Bruce Moen

Entities, earthbounds, demons, ghosts, and ETs that influence people

- How Entities Influence People on the Earth Plane – Rosemary Ellen Guiley
- How Earthbound Spirits, Ghosts, Demons, and ETs Can Affect Your Clients and the Six Steps to Take to Release Them – Peter Wright, M.A.
- A Psychotherapist Reveals What You Need to Know about Spirit Possession – Ellie Pechet, M.Ed.

How loved ones, angels, and guides communicate with us

- How Our Loved Ones Communicate with Us from the Afterlife – Savarna Wiley, M.A.
- How Guides, Helpers, and Beneficial Entities Communicate with Us – Susanne Wilson, M.A.
- Loved Ones Work to Reconnect and Heal Unfinished Business – Jamie Turndorf, Ph.D.

Everyday living on the next plane of life

- Why We Know Our Pets Live on with Us in the Next Realm – Kim Sheridan
- What Happens to Babies Lost Before Birth by Miscarriages and Other Events – Patricia McGivern

See CONFERENCE page 15